

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame;

a motor supported by the frame;

an endless drive track supported by the frame and operatively connected to the motor;

a straddle type seat supported by the frame;

two steering skis supported by the frame;

a motor cover connected to the frame for relative pivotal movement about a motor cover axis between a closed position and an open position relative to the frame, the motor cover defining an opening therethrough with a peripheral edge;

a pin rigidly mounted to the frame and positioned such that the pin extends through the opening when the motor cover is in the closed position; and

a latch having a first portion mounted to the frame and a second portion selectively engageable with the pin, wherein the second portion holds the motor cover in the closed position,

wherein, when the motor cover is in the closed position, the pin engages the peripheral edge of the opening to discourage the motor cover from moving relative to the frame.

2. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein the latch includes a resilient portion connecting the first portion to the second portion.

3. The snowmobile of claim 2, wherein the pin comprises a first portion that extends outwardly from the frame and a second portion that protrudes from the first portion so that the first and second portions generally form an "L" shape.

4. The snowmobile of claim 3, wherein the second portion of the latch includes a lip that selectively engages the second portion of the pin.

5. The snowmobile of claim 4, wherein the latch further comprises a knob attached to the second portion, the knob being constructed and arranged to enable a rider to selectively engage the latch and pin by manipulating the knob so as to stretch the resilient portion of the latch and enable the lip of the latch to fit over the second portion of the pin.

6. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein the motor cover includes a recessed area around the opening such that the second portion of the latch is disposed in the recessed area when the motor cover is closed and the latch engages the pin.

7. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein the motor cover axis forms an angle with a vertically extending line that is less than 45 degrees.

8. The snowmobile of claim 7, wherein the angle is less than 30 degrees.

9. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein the motor cover includes a knee rest that is constructed and arranged to engage one of the snowmobile rider's knees during operation of the snowmobile, the snowmobile being constructed and arranged to transfer forces exerted by the rider's knee on the motor cover to the frame through the pin.

10. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein the latch encloses a distal end of the pin when the latch engages the pin.

11. The snowmobile of claim 1, further comprising a starter cord and handle operatively connected to the motor, wherein the motor cover includes a second opening therethrough, through which the handle extends when the motor cover is in the closed position.

12. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein, when the motor cover is in the open position, the motor is exposed.

13. The snowmobile of claim 1, wherein:
the pin extends outwardly from the frame in a direction that defines a pin axis, and
when the motor cover is in the closed position, forces applied to the motor cover in a direction perpendicular to the pin axis are transferred to the frame through the pin.